Sustainable Intensification of Land Use to Protect Forests and Climate

Project Title	Sustainable Intensification of Land Use to Protect Forests and Climate
Project Summary	Conduct and assist with research for case studies to illustrate successful and flawed efforts to reduce pressure on forests and retain carbon in landscapes by increasing crop production
Country	United States
Country/Region of Focus	Global

Project Description

Deforestation and forest degradation, often caused by expansion of agriculture, is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change, especially in the tropics. To limit the extent of dangerous climate change, there is a strong need to limit agricultural expansion while ensuring a secure supply of food, especially in developing countries with high rates of poverty and malnutrition.

In response to this need, development agencies including USAID have advanced numerous efforts to increase crop production on a parcel of land while avoiding expansion and other negative consequences of some agricultural practices ("sustainable intensification"). However, implementing these programs successfully is challenging and frequently focuses on increasing production with scant attention to expansion into forests and other ecosystems.

Collaborating with staff in the Office of Global Climate Change (GCC), and building on existing GCC analysis, the Fellow will develop a series of case studies that illustrate necessary conditions for sustainable intensification to succeed, the types of evidence required to assess success, and the integrity of past claims of success. These case studies will form part of a larger set of guidance materials intended to help USAID staff design effective sustainable intensification programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from land use change while improving food security.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)

GIS expertise

Research

Additional Information

The ideal candidate with have education or experience in land use change, climate change and/or international development.

Language Requirements

None